

COVID-19 Child Care Provider Calls

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Tuesday, March 31, 2020

Introductions



- **Susan Gale Perry**

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- **Kristi Snuggs**

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- **Katie Test Davis (moderator)**

Founder, Forthright Advising

Agenda For Today



- Overview of COVID-19 State Response
- Overview of COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Guidance
- What You Need to Do Now
- What You Need to Do Next
- Resources and Support
- Moderated Q&A

Overview of COVID-19 State Response

COVID-19 Updates

NC Cases	NC Deaths	NC Completed Tests	Currently Hospitalized
1,498	8	23,106	157

Last Updated: Tuesday, March 31 at 10:00AM.

COVID-19 Updates

Governor Cooper is taking numerous actions to protect the health of North Carolinians:

- Issued stay at home order and outlined essential businesses and operations (includes child care)
- Banned mass gatherings of 10+ people
- Ordered all K-12 public schools in NC to close through May 15; closed
- Limited bars and restaurants to only take-out or delivery service
- Restricting visitors to long-term care facilities
- Promoting social distancing by closing close-contact business

General Updates – High Risk Populations

- People 65 years and older
- People who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility
- People with high risk conditions, including chronic lung disease, moderate to severe asthma, or heart disease with complications
- People who are immunocompromised
- People with severe obesity or certain underlying medical conditions (e.g., diabetes)
- Pregnant women should be monitored
- Infants (some studies indicate higher risk)

Overall Child Care Strategy

- Protect health and safety of families, children, and child care staff
 - Connect essential personnel to available child care options
 - Direct all non-essential workers to stay at home with children
 - Stabilize child care programs that are open for essential workers
 - Next step: Address long-term financial needs of child care industry
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Overview of COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Guidance

Guidance issued by DHHS to Child Care Providers to date



- [Payment Guidance for March](#) (3/17)
- [Regulatory Flexibility](#) (3/18)
- [Updated Health and Safety Guidance](#) (3/23)
- [Door Signs for Facilities](#) (3/23)
- [Emergency Child Care Operations and Financing Guidance](#) (3/26)
- [COVID-19 Child Care Provider Survey](#)
- [Emergency Child Care Provider Application](#)

Child Care Hotline

- Care is for essential workers and children who are homeless, receiving child welfare services or who live in unstable or unsafe living conditions.
 - Number is 1-888-600-1685.
 - Open weekdays 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 - Care options are available for infants through age 12.
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COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Provider Application

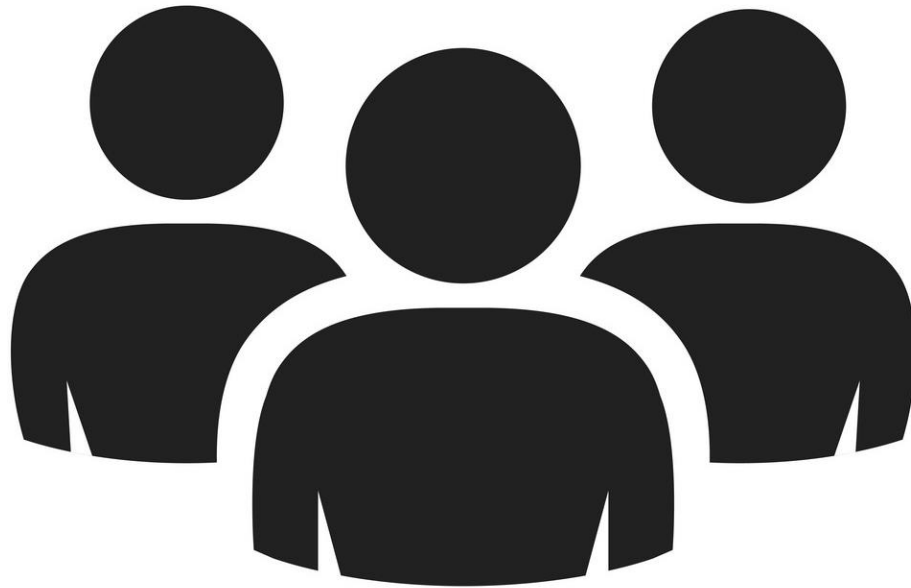
Requirements to Operate:

- In order to operate your child care facility on April 1 onwards, complete a [COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Provider Application Form](#) by 11:59 p.m. March 31.
- If you are not ready to open your facility on April 1, but would like to reopen at a later date, you should apply at least 2 business days before reopening and receiving approval from DCDEE.
- Providers who do not complete an application will be considered closed and not approved to provide child care until further notice from NC DHHS.
- For help with the form: Call your facility's child care consultant.

**Agree to meet updated health, safety,
and screening guidelines**



**Confirm you have adequate staffing to
comply with licensing requirements
and updated guidelines**



**Confirm you have adequate supplies,
resources and staff to meet updated
health guidelines & care for children**



Agree to provide daily information to NC DHHS



- Report your vacancies, staffing and attendance on a daily basis using the online [COVID-19 Child Care Provider Survey](#).
- Notify your child care consultant if you are unable to meet other guidelines or need resources.

Provide care to essential workers and priority populations

To the extent possible, make temporarily vacant slots available to:

- Children of essential workers
- Children who are homeless or in unstable or unsafe living arrangements
- Children receiving child welfare services through a County Department of Social Services

Providers are NOT required to enroll new children, but are strongly encouraged to do so to ensure critical workers can access child care.

Financial Requirements



- Ensure all new families seeking to enroll who need financial assistance complete the **COVID-19 Parent Application for Financial Assistance for Emergency Child Care** and keep a record of this form for each family receiving child care.
- Waive all child care subsidy parent copayments for April and May 2020 (NC DHHS will cover the SCC fee share).
- Provide teachers, administrators and other direct care staff with state-funded bonus pay.

How to get help with the COVID-19 Emergency Child Care Provider Application



- Application located here:
<https://ncchildcare.ncdhhs.gov/Whats-New/Coronavirus-Information-for-Child-Care/COVID-19-Emergency-Child-Care-Provider-Application-Form>
- Call your child care consultant
- Call Smart Start for obtaining and maintaining resources

Financial Assistance

Subsidy Payments

- NC DHHS will:
 - Pay subsidy payments that are at least the amounts paid for February 2020 attendance. At this time, we are only making these subsidy payments to providers that are open and serving children in April and May.
 - Cover the cost of all parent copayments for the child care subsidy program for April and May. Child care programs must waive all parent copayments for these months.

Bonus Pay

- NC DHHS will make bonus payments to all child care employees working on-site at facilities that remain open in April and May 2020.
- Bonus payments are available for both child care centers and home-based sites.
- **Full Time Employees:**
 - \$300/month for teachers, \$200/month for other staff, if employees are present at work for 10+ days during the month
- **Part Time Employees (20 hrs/week or less):**
 - \$150/month for teachers, \$100/month for other staff

If employee is absent for 10+ days, bonus will be prorated using a daily rate (divide bonus amount by 21.67, and multiply by number of days the employee worked)

NC Pre-K Payments

- NC DHHS will pay ALL NC Pre-K providers fully through the remainder of the program year.
 - Payments will be based on February attendance.
 - We will pay you regardless of site location or if program is open or closed.
- NC DHHS will pay all NC Pre-K contractors their full program coordination/administrative rates.
- NC DHHS will be sending NC Pre-K contractors additional programmatic guidance for supporting NC Pre-K children and families remotely during the remainder of the program year.

NEW: Essential Worker Emergency Child Care Subsidy Program

- Families who are essential workers, who do not have other child care options and who are not currently receiving subsidized child care can access financial assistance for child care.
- Program begins April 1 and runs April and May 2020.
- Families must meet the criteria for NC DHHS to cover cost of care:
 - Gross income must be below 300% of the poverty line
 - Parents/caregivers must be a critical worker responding to the COVID-19 crisis
 - Parents/caregivers must have no other child care options available

Rates for Essential Worker Emergency Child Care Subsidy Program

Age Groups	Child Care Centers	Family Child Care Homes
Infant	\$1,200	\$905
Toddler	\$1,125	\$830
3-5 year olds	\$1,070	\$780
School-age	\$870	\$645

Process to Pay Emergency Subsidy Payments

- Providers caring for children receiving emergency child care subsidy during COVID-19 Pandemic will be paid based on enrollment of the child, unless child is absent from the facility 10+ days in a month
- If a child is absent 10+ days of a service month, provider will be paid for actual days that care was provided
- Calculation of the payment will be determined using the daily rate

Parent Application for Financial Assistance - COMING SOON

Once Parent Application form becomes available, you will need to:

- Have printed copies of the Parent Application form available for parents to fill out
- Have copies of printed voter registration forms available if parents want to register on site. If parent indicates they want to register to vote, hand them a form and direct them to mail to DSS.
- When parents submit, ensure the forms are complete
- Collect the Forms and store them
- Track attendance for emergency care in the Portal (being developed)

NOTE: Providers cannot charge families enrolled in the Essential Worker Emergency Child Care Subsidy Program parent copayments

What You Need to Do Now

Immediate Next Steps for Providers

- Review the guidance NC DHHS has issued
 - If you wish to stay open effective April 1, complete the application form by March 31
 - If you wish to reopen after April 1, complete the application 2 business days prior to the date you wish to reopen
 - If you do not wish to remain open during the COVID-19 crisis, your facility will be considered closed effective April 1
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What To Expect Next

Additional Guidance and Reporting

- Look out for additional operational guidance around the new subsidy program and Parent Application for financial assistance and other financing,
 - Programs that remain open after April 1 will need to use the [COVID-19 Child Care Provider Survey](#) to report daily attendance, slots, staffing – *this will be used for the hotline so parents can know where child care is available.*
 - Programs that are not able to continue to meet DHHS requirements will need to notify child care consultant and close down.
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Resources

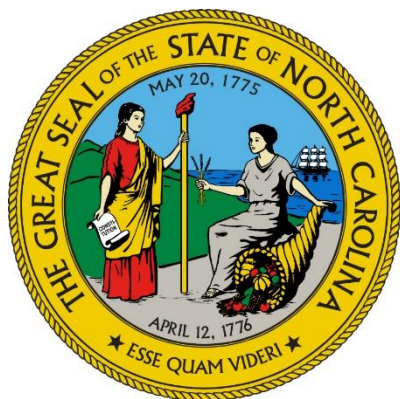
Who to go to for what

- **General questions, application questions:** NC DHHS child care consultants.
- **Health guidance and needs:** Contact a child care health consultant.
- **Child care subsidy questions:** Contact DCDEE at 1-800-859-0829 or 919-814-6300.
- **Additional help or resources, such as food or diapers, or troubleshooting other problems:** Contact your local Smart Start partnership.

Moderated Q&A



- **Please enter your questions in the chat box.**
- If we aren't able to answer your question at this time, please reach out to your child care consultant.
- After all regional meetings are complete, we'll distribute an FAQ document for your records.



THANK YOU!